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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
1 January 1961

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Copy No.

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Situation in Laos (as of 0800 EST)

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1. There has been no essential change, reported in the military situation in Laos during the past 24 hours. Communist forces apparently are continuing to press government forces in the Xieng Khouang area. [redacted] the number of attacks in Luang Prabang province, both minor and in force, may indicate a possible drive on Luang Prabang town or may be diversions to relieve any pressure from government troops on Kong Le forces to the south. Reinforcement of the royal capital by troops from outlying areas has strengthened it sufficiently to withstand a major attack, [redacted] but has created vacuums in the countryside.

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2. American military observers in Vientiane state that after a review of information available there, there is nothing [redacted] to support Laotian government charges of participation by North Vietnamese regular forces. [redacted]

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3. North Vietnam has repeatedly denied that its troops have entered Laotian territory and has termed such charges "absolutely false" and a "camouflage" for further US "intervention" by the US and its SEATO allies. Hanoi at the same time once again repeated its call for reactivation of the International Control Commission for Laos and convening a new Geneva Conference.

DIA review(s) completed.

[REDACTED]

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4. Kong Le's Order of the Day, issued on 31 December and broadcast by the Pathet Lao Radio and TASS, announced that attacks had been "successfully launched" against Phoumi's forces. Kong Le called for "immediate withdrawal" of all foreign military advisers and warned that if this demand were turned down "the question of dispatching volunteers from Afro-Asian countries" would have to be "considered."

5. The American embassy has evacuated to Bangkok 60 of its employees, both American and third-country, but has retained all essential personnel.

6. Bloc air support of Kong Le/Pathet Lao troops in Laos is continuing. [REDACTED]

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HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
Assistance Director
Current Intelligence

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